

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-15 are presented for consideration. Claim 1 is the sole independent claim. To advance prosecution, Claims 16-55 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of their subject matter.

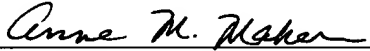
In the Official Action mailed July 7, 2003, Claims 1-15 were allowed, and in accordance with *Ex Parte Quayle*, prosecution on the merits was closed. The Examiner required a substitute specification and the cancellation of the non-elected claims. In this response, Applicants have complied with these requirements. Specifically, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.125(a), Applicants submit herewith both a clean and a marked-up copy of a substitute specification including only the amendments to the specification first presented in the Amendment filed April 22, 2003. The substitute specification includes no new matter.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and an early notice of allowance are requested.

Applicants also request the Examiner to consider the Information Disclosure Statement filed May 8, 2003, and the documents cited therein, and forward a copy of the PTO-1449 Form initialed to indicate the Examiner's consideration of the cited documents. A duplicate of the Information Disclosure Statement filed May 8, 2003, along with a copy of the postcard, date-stamped to show receipt by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on that date, is attached.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. Office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date 5 / 8 / 2003
Mo. Day Yr.
Atty. Docket 05862.022217
Application No. 09/845,297

Sir:

Kindly acknowledge receipt of the accompanying:

- ☐ Response to Official Action. _____
- ☐ Check for \$ _____ (claims fee)
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- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 and three (3) documents
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